



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA

2022 FEB 15 AM 8:37

MINUTES
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
January 25, 2022
Zoom Online Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Amy Marr, Chair
Laura Often, Vice Chair
Liz Spinney, Secretary
Jennifer Connelly, Member

Student Representatives: Annabelle Webber
Meroska Gouhar

Also Present: James Cummings, Superintendent of Schools
Kristen Gasper, Assistant Superintendent

1. Call to Order: At 7:00 p.m, Amy Marr called the meeting to order. *Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Grafton School Committee is being conducted via remote participation. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to this meeting while in progress may do so by visiting the zoom link found on the Grafton Public School website. We will need to take attendance and announce all the committee members and school officials on the call. We will have a roll call vote for all votes. Closed captioning has been enabled. The secretary will monitor questions using the Q&A feature.* Introductions: Amy Marr, Chair; Laura Often, Vice Chair; Liz Spinney, Secretary; Jennifer Connelly, Member; James Cummings, Superintendent; Kristen Gasper, Assistant Superintendent; Annabelle Webber, Student Representative; Meroska Gouhar, Student Representative; Rosanne Kurposka, GMS Principal; and Tim Fauth, GMS Assistant Principal.

Amy Marr asked the student representatives to share member reports. Annabelle Webber shared that Q2 ended today. More COVID restrictions have been put in place but it was announced that spectators are allowed at games. The Clark Tournament will be held at GHS during February break. Meroska Gouhar shared that the Spring Musical is Grease. Student Council raised over \$400 for a Kentucky food bank.

2. Public Comment: n/a

3. General Business:

A. School Report - Rosanne Kurposka and Tim Fauth, Grafton Middle School
The pillars at GMS are: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Grateful, Be Kind. Rosanne Kurposka thanked the students, staff, school advisory council, district administrative team, and the school committee for their support. GMS shared the following accomplishments and tied them to their School Improvement Goals.

Goal #1:

- Special Education PAL Academy - Possibilities for All Learners, initiated daily vocational activities and increased academic inclusion.
- The Lighthouse Program - Transition program helps students re-integrate after multiple medical absences. Student Success Program provides academic and therapeutic support to meet grade level requirements.
- The Science Department is incorporating PhET Simulations - interactive research based simulations to support instruction.
- The Math Department is using Galileo benchmark assessments and piloting ALEK.
- 1:1 Chromebooks
- Grade 8 Civics 13th amendment project - address societal challenges in equity/diversity
- ELA has increased use of Writing Centers.
- World Language Department - 2nd year of comprehensible input based curriculum.
- Band and Chorus are in person and collaborating within their sections.
- Increased parent communication regarding student engagement
- Student Support Teams - weekly/biweekly discussions around struggling students
- Multi Grade Dept. Mtgs. - ongoing evaluation/adjustment for standards and student needs
- Math Department book study *Building Thinking Classroom in Mathematics, Grades K-12: 14 Teaching Practices for Enhancing Learning*. Algebra I curriculum adjusted to better prepare students for Algebra II.
- *Coaching for Equity* Book Study at the district level.
- District wide monthly new teachers workshops

Goal #2:

- Allowing students to submit assignments/project on paper or electronically
- Students and teacher communicate via Schoology
- Flex Block Student Workshops on Schoology
- Teacher push out accommodations and create/administer assessments on Schoology
- Teachers can track student progress and add individualized instruction through Schoology

Goal #3

- Parent / guardian open house - virtual or in person
- Parent / guardian conferences - held virtual in December
- Grafton Food Bank relationship
- Blackstone Valley Education Foundation (BVEF) Virtual Field Trip on site to Riverdale Mills manufacturing.

- Open Hearts and Minds fundraiser to support community in Kenya
- BVEF and WPI Women in STEM Leadership Academy -Fall program, 4 GMS students
- Re-implementation of Grade 8 Washington DC/Philadelphia trip in May
- 8th Grade Career Date - May 18, 2022
- Connections Conference at Sutton High School
- Social Justice Educational Conference for middle and high school students
- Schoology Tips and Tools shared through weekly newsletter

#Goal #4

- Multiple orientation meetings for incoming 7th graders
- In Person building tours held throughout August
- One Grafton orientation - 3 day, updated to suit in person learning
- Brave Space - giving students space to share voice around equity and diversity
- Spirit Day and Week - February 2022
- Daily mindfulness minutes
- Variety of after school student clubs
- The Power of Choice Program
- Ambassadors Program -Monthly, teachers nominate 15-16 students who embody an identified characteristic (like respect, empathy etc.)
- Embracing our Differences, Changing our World - A Whole School GMS Campaign: staff and students created a journal of writing and artwork based on the campaign theme.

Alana Derry is the Project 351 Ambassador and will be serving in this capacity for one year. Laura Often asked about the Brave Space program. Rosanne Kurposka gave an example from the meeting. Several students expressed concern about their gender identity. Students from GHS GSA club were able to talk with students about their concerns and support their journey. Students really do the talking/supporting. GMS students felt that they developed new safe spaces for connections. Liz Spinney asked if teachers are adjusting how they handle missed school work due to COVID absences. Schoology is a great tool. Teachers put as much information as possible on Schoology. How are students selected for the outside programs that are offered? It varies. Will there be an end of year celebration for 8th graders? Yes, but still in planning stages. Amy Marr asked how assessment results are shared in Schoology. Ms. Kurposka will look into that.

B. District Update:

Great things - Thanks to the advocacy of Felicity Pryal, an archery club has been created. MSES started a You're Incredible award for paraprofessionals.

COVID-19

- Significant decrease in cases
- DESE extended mask mandate through February
- Vaccination rate - GHS 80.4%, GMS 77.9%
- State masking mandate through February

New testing program

- Rapid antigen tests arrive this week and next
- Bi-weekly distribution to participating staff and students
- Opt-in link will be shared with parents
- Weekly testing, positive cases reported via online portal
- Contract tracing and Test and Stay Program have been discontinued
- DESE webinar tomorrow
- District shared flowchart for students with COVID symptoms

C. FY23 Budget Update:

- Met with TA last week
- Potential nursing costs considered under ARPA
- Reduce preliminary budget by \$500,000
- Meeting again tomorrow with TA, override monies and future years
- State budget process underway
- Will use numbers from tomorrow to build FY23 budget book

Capital projects- anticipate receiving \$529k in capital funding. The goal will be to have these projects done over the summer.

Replace 1964 expansion tanks in the boiler room at GMS	\$32,000
Add screens to windows and classrooms at GMS	\$30,000
Update bathroom in auditorium foyer at GMS	\$50,000
Paint walls and replace carpet in GMS auditorium	\$45,000
Paint office/classroom doors and door frames at GMS	\$40,000
Replace broken floor tiles at GMS	\$12,000
Replace copper gym roof at NGES	\$250,000
Replacement furniture - district wide	\$ 70,000

D. Mascot Discussion: These are the remaining items to remove the former mascot.

- GMS Gymnasium floor (\$1500) - to be completed in July 2022
- GMS Auditorium Chairs (no cost, will be included in chair refurbishment in Spring 2022)
- GMS Wall mat (waiting on price from MassCor)
- GMS Bas-relief on building (2 , total cost \$8-10k)
- GMS Scoreboard (minimal cost)
- State championship signs near town border (minimal cost)
- 23 banners in GHS gymnasium (\$10,300) - waiting on MassCor quote

Liz Spinney reminded the committee that when the decision was made to remove the mascot, the committee agreed that the replacement of mascots on school grounds would take place over time and when it made sense. Liz Spinney feels that there is no rush to complete these tasks, unless it pares with another project. Laura Often agrees but suggests the district will need to prioritize some of these items at some point. Amy Marr is more concerned with the items within the school, than the things outside. Amy Marr is

uncomfortable with students having to see this iconography every day. Dr. Cummings will add these to the budget and the committee can prioritize during budget discussions.

E. Annual Report to the Town: Liz Spinney shared her report with the committee. Members shared some minor edits. Laura Often moved to accept the Annual report with the amendments. Jennifer Connelly seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Laura Often, aye; Jennifer Connelly, aye; Liz Spinney, aye and Amy Marr, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

F. 2022-2023 School Calendar: The draft version of the 2022-2023 calendar was presented to the committee. The addition of Juneteenth could impact the end of school year if calamity days occur. Laura Often asked if the October 26th half day could be moved to October 31. Jennifer Connelly asked if students could go to school on December 22nd to avoid the Juneteenth conflict. Amy Marr asked if Election Day should be a day off for safety reasons. Laura Often agrees that Election Day at the schools is tricky for safety and parking. Liz Spinney shares the Election Day concerns but doesn't like the other options. Laura Often suggested discussing options with the Town Clerk. The committee will continue to review.

G. Superintendent Mid Year Goals Review:

Goal #1 Professional Practice: Improve communication of school department budgetary needs for FY23 and beyond

- Introduce new budgetary timelines (complete)
- Utilize a cable access show to highlight school department value and needs (not complete)
- Reset capital plan using new ClearGov software (complete)
- Conduct an ADA self assessment for all schools and develop implementation plan (in process)
- Increase stakeholder understanding of budgetary needs and funding realities (not complete)

Goal #2 Student Learning: Increase coordination and effectiveness of student services

- Continue implementation of paraprofessional shift with ongoing support and professional development (in process)
- Assess and build on co-teaching foundation district-wide (not complete)
- Continue to foster the strengthening of specialized programming through the district with particular focus on transitions between grade levels and schools (in process)
- Work to expand the senior internship program within the community (complete)
- Further develop coordination and leadership of our 7-12 counseling program (in process)
- Assess scheduling at all schools with the goal of strengthening time for student supports, staff planning and maximization of instructional time. (not complete)

Goal #3 Student Learning: Strengthen our collective ability to meet the needs of all students

- Introduce and utilize a data system that provide educators with timely, key data related to student success (in process)

- Work with human resources and GTA to streamline evaluation system to maximize the efficiency and impact of feedback (complete)
- Partner with Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services to strengthen our ability to meet student/family needs and provide for needed wraparound services (complete)
- Implement use of a vaping initiative to provide for a coordinated address of the growing vaping epidemic among students (not complete)
- Formalize ongoing school/classroom visits (not complete)
- Full equity audit (not complete); due to cost, looking at how to complete in pieces

H. Superintendent Contract:

- July 1, 2021- June 30, 2024
- Duration - 3 years
- Wages 2.5% for FY22
- Unused vacation days - buyback clause for up to 5 days
- Holidays to include Juneteenth

Liz Spinney identified 3 typos and will send them to Kristen Gasper. Liz Spinney asked for clarification in contract language related to subsequent salaries. The committee would review the salary after the evaluation is conducted each year. The salary is \$190,139.49. Laura Often made a motion to accept the Superintendent's contract for 2021-2024. Jennifer Connelly seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Laura Often, aye; Jennifer Connelly, aye; Liz Spinney, aye and Amy Marr, aye. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Future Agenda Planning: The new committee member will be appointed with the Select Board on February 1. There are 4 candidates and one hour for interviews. It will be a hybrid of in-person and virtual interviews. Laura Often suggests that they look for a new date if the Select Board can only give one hour on their agenda. The interview list was narrowed down to 7 questions. Amy Marr will request 1.5 hours from the Select Board. Laura Often will be the timekeeper. All committee members opt to participate in-person.

4. Approval of Minutes: postponed

5. Financial Report: postponed

6. Policy: postponed

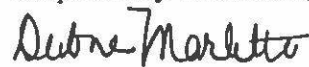
7. Member Reports: n/a

8. Correspondence: n/a

9. Executive Session: n/a

10. Adjournment: Laura Often made a motion to adjourn. Liz Spinney seconded the motion. By roll call vote, Laura Often, aye; Jennifer Connelly, aye; Liz Spinney, aye and Amy Marr, aye. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Debne Marlette

Recording Secretary